

Submitter: Linda Craig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB803

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, members of the Committee:

I am Linda Craig and I live in Portland. I'm retired and I live near Portland's NW industrial area. I write in support of SB 803 with two issues.

First, I am concerned about Portland's air quality. The air quality in my neighborhood is pretty bad. I know that diesel is our largest source of small particulate matter, PM 2.5, and that our health suffers as a result of this pollution. Reducing particulate matter in the air would reduce childhood asthma, save lives from lung disease, heart attacks and strokes; and save dollars in health care and in lost time from work and school. My legislator, Rep Maxine Dexter, a pulmonologist, has testified extensively about the extent of the health problems caused by diesel emissions.

Second, I believe strongly that we must do all we can to reduce air pollutants that are causing the climate crisis. Again, diesel fuels are a big source. Black carbon is the particulate that causes diesel emissions to have color. Black carbon is a very potent climate pollutant, absorbing much more heat than would an equal amount of carbon dioxide. Black carbon is short term in the environment, so cleaning up diesel fuel would result in rapid improvement in our response to the climate crisis.

For these reasons, we need to decarbonize, but as we prepare for that future, running our economy on renewable diesel rather than fossil diesel makes good sense. I ask that you advance SB 803.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Craig
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